

**Subject: United Opposition to the Closure of the School Aged Child Care Program**  
To the District 65 Board of Education and Administration,

On behalf of the unions of District 65, we write in unified and unequivocal opposition to the proposed closure of the School Aged Child Care (SACC) program.

This program is not just an auxiliary service—it is a vital, deeply integrated part of our school community. Its closure will directly impact more than 350 school-aged children, effectively displacing what amounts to an entire school population. Beyond the numbers, this decision disrupts families, undermines student support systems, and weakens the very fabric of our district.

The SACC program has consistently been a self-sustaining program that generates revenue for the district. The only recent exception occurred during the summer of 2024, not due to program failure, but because the district did not fulfill its operational obligations. Eliminating a program that is both financially viable and community-centered raises serious concerns about priorities and decision-making.

Most critically, this closure will disproportionately impact students with special needs—students who rely on the consistency, care, and specialized services that SACC staff proudly provide. These are services that families depend on and that align directly with our district’s commitment to serving the whole child.

The reality for working families is clear: the school day does not begin and end with the bell. Our staff are present as early as 6:45 a.m., welcoming children into a safe, structured, and nurturing environment, and remain until 6:00 p.m. to ensure students are cared for until their families can return. Removing this support creates immediate and significant hardships for parents and guardians who rely on this program to maintain their livelihoods.

SACC staff are not casual or temporary workers—they are highly qualified professionals. Licensed through DCFS, certified in CPR and AED, and trained through DCFS-approved coursework, they meet rigorous standards to serve children safely and effectively. Staff are required to complete at least 15 hours of professional development annually and implement DCFS-mandated curriculum that supports child development.

Our workforce spans from first-year educators to 45-year veterans, bringing a depth of experience that has helped shape generations of students. The foundation built in this program has contributed to the development of future educators, administrators, and leaders within District 65 and beyond.

We were present during the most challenging times—including the COVID-19 pandemic—when many others could not enter buildings. We continued to serve, support, and stabilize our community when it was needed most.

This program is also unique in its daily connection to families. SACC staff are the only district employees who interact with parents every single day through structured sign-in and sign-out processes, fostering relationships and trust that are not replicated during the traditional school day. This consistent communication strengthens the school-home connection in meaningful and lasting ways.

Additionally, the program operates under USDA guidelines, ensuring that students receive nutritious meals that meet federal standards. It is a secure, regulated environment that prioritizes student safety, accountability, and well-being at all times.

The SACC program is not only used by community members, but also by district employees and even state and local legislators—demonstrating its broad value and trusted reputation. Its removal will leave a significant and immediate gap in services that cannot easily be replaced.

We urge the Board of Education and Administration to reconsider this decision. Closing this program does not align with our shared mission to support the whole child, strengthen families, and build thriving school communities.

District 65 deserves solutions that invest in students, families, and staff—not decisions that dismantle what is already working.

In solidarity,

Cynthia Battle, president of ETAA

Natalie Copper, President of the EACCP

Kelly Post, president of DEC

Dana Smalley, President of DESC

Thomas Wharton, President of ECMA